

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/014763

International filing date (day/month/year)
28.12.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
08.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H03K17/28

Applicant
THOMSON LICENSING S.A.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the International application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the International application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for International preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Aratari, R

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2855



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/014763

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the International application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The validity of the priority claim has not been considered because the International Searching Authority does not have in its possession a copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed or, where required, a translation of that earlier application. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date (Rules 43b/s.1 and 64.1) is the claimed priority date.
2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43b/s.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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International application No.
PCT/EP2004/014763

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : US 2001/039626 A

D2 : US 5 592 034 A

D3 : EP 0 551 811 A

- 2 The preamble of **claim 1** is known from any of the available prior art documents: Figure 1 of D1, for example, discloses a circuit arrangement having a power supply (9), a mains switch (71) and a switching element (8a, 8b) having a control terminal (relay 8) to which a control voltage (42) is coupled, the switching element (8a, 8b) bridging a first switching contact (7b, 7c) of the mains switch (71).

However, none of the available prior art documents discloses or suggests the characterising feature of **claim 1**, that a load and the control terminal of the switching element are coupled together, such that a power to the load is cut-off when the switching element is opened via the control voltage.

3. In this respect it is to be observed that the expression in claim 1 "a load is **coupled** to a control terminal..." can only be interpreted having regard to the description and the technical field of the application, as indicating that the control voltage is essentially directly applied to **both** the control element of the switching element **and** to the load.

In D1 the "load" is the set power supply units 9, which receive alternating current via the mains switch (71) and/or the switching element (8a, 8b) and provide various continuous current voltages to a control unit 4 and a microprocessor, which in turn provides the control voltage supplied to the control element (relay 8) or the switching element (8a, 8b) bridging the main switch. Hence, the "load" is not directly coupled to the control terminal of the switching element.

4. Similar arguments apply also to the documents D2 and D3.

5. The above distinguishing feature defines an alternative circuitry design which might

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/014763

be advantageous in some circumstances. Hence, the requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT appear to be met.

6. The remaining claims are dependent on claim 1 and define more detailed embodiments.

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International application No.
PCT/EP2004/014763

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-12
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Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-12
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